>

Title: Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister deserves hearty congratulations and humble gratitude of those people who are granted financial assistance for their life saving treatment of certain killer diseases from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). While it is gratefully acknowledged by a very few people who are granted the assistance, it is lamented by many people who do not have even a word of reply for their request to undergo such a life saving treatment.

I take this opportunity to bring home the moot point that the beneficiaries who are granted the assistance are one or two in certain months. As far as my constituency is concerned, there are 30 to 40 applications along with pucca requirements are recommended by me every month. This is because the patients find it easily accessible to avail of the quality treatment from the RCC and Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute of Medical Sciences in nearby Thiruvananthapuram. The cases are genuine and deserve assistance. The hospital authorities also suggest availing of the assistance for the impoverished patients. The paltry sanction of financial assistance for one or two patients a month gives a wrong signal to the poor applicants that they are deprived of their chance of being saved by the hon. Prime Minister.

Sir, it is agonizing to mention that nearly 40 applications of the Tsunami affected coastal villagers are pending for long awaiting the sanction of PMNRF. At this juncture, I would also like to mention that approximately 70 persons who were declared missing in the Tsunami killer waves should be treated as dead relaxing the legal provisions as a special case and the Central relief of Rs. One lakh should be paid to their legal heirs as has been done by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Manoj, you have gone to your house and after seeing the television you have returned here.